been constituted, such petitions received in the High Court are promptly dealt with. The information in respect of remaining High Courts is still awaited.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Supreme Court of India, the All India Chief Justices' Conference referred to in the Question also resolved that the guidelines dated 1-12-1988 followed by the Supreme Court for entertaining letters/ petitions received as public interest litigation modifications having regard to local conditions. There guidelines enumerate a wide variety of categories of matters/ persons in respect of which/whom letters/petitions will ordinarily be entertained such as bonded labour, neglected children, nonpayment of minimum wages, petitions from jails complaining harassment, complaints of death in police custody, petitions against atrocities on women, etc. as well as matters of public importance but excluding individual/ personal matters.

Amendment of Companies Act, 1956

1685 DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to amend Companies Act, 1956; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and in what manner the changes are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The general approach of the Government in making changes in Company Law is to provide for investor protection, ratiohalisation and streamlining of the provisions of the Act.

Enquiry against malpractices of Colgate Palmolives

1686. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.R.T.P.C. has ordered an enquiry into colgate Palmolive's alleged manipulation of production, creation of artificial shortages and tying up of sales of its slow moving product with fast moving ones;

(b) if so, what is the result of the enquiry; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any action, against this company, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The MRTP Commission has issued a notice of enquiry to M/s. Colgate Palmolive India Limited in the matter of their allegedly indulging in restrictive trade practices within the meaning of the MRTP Act. The enquiry is to come up for evidence before the Commission on 11-3-92. The MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body and is empowered to take necessary action under the MRTP Act.

Auditing of accounts of political parties

1687. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

audit the accounts of political parties and change the legislation to facilitate it; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Committee on Electoral Reforms appointed in 1990 had considered a proposal to audit the accounts of political parties but it did not come to any conclusion as there was no unanimity of views amongst the Members of the Committee. The Election Commission has recently sent a proposal that every political party registered with the Commission should publish its accounts annually and such accounts should be audited by agencies specified by the Election Commission.

1688. [*Transferred to the 17th March, 1992*]

1689. [*Transferred to the 18th March, 1992*]

Setting up of National Court of Appeal

1690. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Court of Appeal to decongest the appex judicial body as suggested by the Supreme Court some times back;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government now.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Nomination filed in Punjab Elections

1691. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nomination papers field for June, 1991 elections in Punjab and that for in February, 1992 elections together with their break-up party-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many persons were prevented from filing their nomination papers in February, 1992 elections in Punjab;

(c) if so, whether Government have enquired in this matter and fixed responsibility and action taken in this regard; and

(d) number of complaints registered by political parties in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) Requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.